

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image server for outputting encrypted image data to at least one client terminal among a plurality thereof, comprising:
  - 5 a selection unit for selecting, from among the plurality of client terminals, a client terminal to which image data is to be output;
  - an encryption unit for encrypting the image data using an encryption key which corresponds to the client
  - 10 terminal that has been selected by said selection unit; and
  - an encrypted image data output unit for outputting image data that has been encrypted by said encryption unit.
- 15 2. The image server according to claim 1, wherein the image data includes high-resolution image data for printing and display image data having a resolution lower than that of the high-resolution image data for printing; and
- 20 said encryption unit encrypting the high-resolution image data for printing.
3. A client terminal comprising:
  - an input unit for inputting image data that has been encrypted using an encryption key which corresponds
  - 25 to this client terminal;
  - a decryption unit for decrypting encrypted image data, which has been input by said input unit, using the corresponding decryption key; and

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an output unit for outputting image data that has been decrypted by said decryption unit.

4. An image printing system comprising:

an image selection unit for selecting at least one  
5 image from among a plurality thereof;

a print command unit for applying a command to print the image that has been selected by said image selection unit; and

a printing unit, which is responsive to a print  
10 command applied by said print command unit, for printing, on the same visible recording medium, the image that has been selected by said image selection unit and information relating to a copyright holder of the selected image.

15 5. The system according to claim 4, further comprising an input unit for inputting data in which image data representing a plurality of images and information relating to copyrights of these images are associated with each other;

20 said image selection unit selecting a desired image from among the plurality of images represented by the image data input by said input unit.

6. An image printing system comprising:

a scanner for reading an image that has been  
25 recorded on a visible recording medium and outputting image data representing the read image;

a determination unit for determining whether an image that has been read by said scanner contains

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- information relating to a copyright holder of the image;
- an image printing unit for printing an image, which has been read by said scanner, in accordance with a determination by said determination unit that the read
- 5 image does not contain information relating to the copyright holder; and
- a printing controller for halting normal printing of the image by said image printing unit in accordance with a determination by said determination unit that the
- 10 read image contains information relating to the copyright holder.
7. A data installing apparatus for reading data from a first portable recording medium on which the data has been recorded and installing the image data that has
- 15 been read, wherein a unique first password has been stored in an image printing unit and said apparatus comprises:
- a password reading unit for reading a second password from a second portable recording medium on
- 20 which the second password has been rewritably recorded;
- a password determination unit for determining whether the first password and the second password, which has been read by said password reading unit, match;
- 25 a first installation execution unit for executing the installation in response to a determination by said password determination unit that the first and second passwords match; and

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an installation inhibiting unit for inhibiting the installation in response to a determination by said password determination unit that the first and second passwords do not match.

- 5 8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein installation-count data indicating number installations has been recorded on the second portable recording medium, and said apparatus further comprises:

an installation-count reading unit for reading the  
10 installation-count data indicating number installations recorded on the second portable recording medium;

a determination-halt unit for halting password determination by said password determination unit when number of installations represented by the installation-  
15 count data read by said installation-count reading unit is zero;

a second installation execution unit for executing the installation in response to the halting of password determination by said determination-halt unit; and

20 an incrementing unit for incrementing the number of installations, which is represented by the data that has been recorded in said second portable recording medium, in response to execution of installation by said second installation execution unit.

- 25 9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein initial data is set as the second password when installation has not yet been performed;

said installation inhibiting unit inhibiting the

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installation in response to a number of installations that is zero and, moreover, a second password that is not initial data.

10. An image data output apparatus for outputting image  
5 data corresponding to a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data, comprising:

a designation unit for designating an output destination of applied image data from among the  
10 plurality of image printing units;  
a format conversion unit for converting a format of the applied image data so as to obtain a format conforming to the image printing unit that has been designated by said designation unit; and  
15 an image data output unit for outputting the image data, the format whereof has been converted by said format conversion unit, to the image printing unit that has been designated by said designation unit.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, further  
20 comprising an input unit for inputting an image file containing the image data and data indicating the output destination of this image data;

said designation unit designating the output destination of image data by data indicating the output  
25 destination that is contained in the image file that has been input by said input unit.

12. A printing management apparatus for managing printing conditions in a plurality of image printing

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units which print images represented by image data, wherein data representing printing history is output from the image printing units and said apparatus comprises:

5        a reading unit for reading data representing the printing history output from the image printing units; and

a format conversion unit for converting the data representing the printing history read by said reading  
10      unit to data having a predetermined format.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising an aggregating unit for aggregating, for each of the plurality of printing units, the data which represents printing history and the format of which has been converted by said format conversion unit.

14. A method of controlling an image server for outputting encrypted image data to at least one client terminal among a plurality thereof, said method comprising the steps of:

20      selecting, from among the plurality of client terminals, a client terminal to which image data is to be output;

25      encrypting the image data using an encryption key which corresponds to the client terminal that has been selected; and

outputting image data that has been encrypted.

15. A method of controlling a client terminal, comprising the steps of:

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inputting image data that has been encrypted using an encryption key which corresponds to the client terminal;

decrypting input encrypted image data using the  
5 corresponding decryption key; and

outputting image data that has been decrypted.

16. An image printing method comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one image from among a plurality thereof;

10 receiving a command to print the image that has been selected;

in response to a print command applied by the print command unit, printing, on the same visible recording medium, the image that has been selected and information relating to a copyright holder of the selected image.

15 17. An image printing method comprising the steps of:  
reading an image that has been recorded on a visible recording medium and acquiring image data representing the read image;

20 determining whether an image that has been read contains information relating to a copyright holder of the image;

printing an image, which has been read, in accordance with a determination that the read image does  
25 not contain information relating to the copyright holder; and

halting normal printing of the image in accordance with a determination that the read image contains

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information relating to the copyright holder.

18. A method of installing data in a data installing apparatus for reading data from a first portable recording medium on which the data has been recorded and  
5 installing the image data that has been read, wherein a unique first password has been stored in the data installation apparatus and said method comprises the steps of:

reading a second password from a second portable  
10 recording medium on which the second password has been rewritably recorded;

determining whether the first password and the second password, which has been read, match;

executing the installation in response to a  
15 determination that the first and second passwords match;  
and

inhibiting the installation in response to a determination that the first and second passwords do not match.

- 20 19. A method of outputting image data in an image data output apparatus for outputting image data corresponding to a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data, comprising the steps of: designating an output destination of applied image  
25 data from among the plurality of image printing units;  
converting a format of the applied image data so as to obtain a format conforming to the image printing unit that has been designated; and

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outputting the image data, the format whereof has been converted, to the image printing unit that has been designated.

20. A printing management method for managing printing conditions in a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data, wherein data representing printing history is output from the image printing units and said method comprises the steps of:
- reading data representing the printing history
- 10    output from the image printing units; and
- converting the data representing the printing history read to data having a predetermined format.

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